

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

*Loss of Salt to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar.*

74. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of salt belonging to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar and other salt licensees lost during the recent floods;

(b) whether it is a fact that the salt was allowed to remain on the platform for about nine months or so, though Mr. Karayalar and other licensees frequently applied to Government for the removal thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Excise Commissioner condemned the salt as being unfit for human consumption; and

(d) whether, when Government finally ordered the acceptance of the salt, the flood washed it away before its removal?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) The quantity of salt belonging to Mr. Karayalar lost during the recent floods was 1,11,390 maunds. The quantity lost by the other licensees was 2,23,662 maunds.

(b) The usual procedure is for the licensees to remove salt from the ridges to the drying platform, and after drying it there, to get it weighed and stored on the storage platforms under the supervision of the department. Such stored salt is subsequently removed in the order of the date of manufacture. The salt lost in the cyclone was the balance of the salt manufactured in 1097 and in the *Purattasi Pani* of 1098. If by removal from the storage platform the member means the removal of the share of salt due to Government after accepting it from the licensees, it has to be stated that Government are not bound to accept and remove the share due to them sooner than they need it for sale or transport, and as a matter of fact, no licensee except Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar applied for such acceptance and removal. His request was not granted, because, firstly, he did not comply with the rules in regard to storage, and secondly, because the salt was not required immediately for sale or transport.

(c) and (d) The answer is in the negative.

*Purchase of Patent Medicines.*

75. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts spent on the purchase of patent medicines during the years 1097 and 1098;

(b) the names and quantities of patent medicines purchased; and

(c) the hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions to which these patent medicines were distributed, together with the names and quantities of the medicines so distributed?